THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU): (a) The details of the projects approved under the Wasteland Development Programme pertaining to Rajasthan and Orissa since creation of the Department of Wastelands Development till July, 1997 are given at Annexure (*See* Appendix 181, Annexure No. 661.

(b) and (c) There is no project pending with Centre for clearance.

(d) to (f) Swedish International Development Authority (SIDA) assisted Tree Growers Co-operative Projects (TGCP) are being implemented in the States of Rajasthan and Orissa under the Department of Wastelands Development. The details are given in the Annexure (*See* Appendix 181, Annexure No. 661.

Functional problems experienced by the elected women sarpanches

2447. SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether women elected as sarpanches under the 33 per cent. quota reserved for women for such elected posts, are experiencing any functional problems;

(b) if so, the areas of functioning where such problems arise; and

(c) what remedial measures have been taken by Government and whether any guidelines have been issued in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU): (a) to (c) No such specific instances have been reported by any State Government to the Government of India. In general states have been asked to give importance to the training of women elected representatives of Panchayats.

कांडला पत्तन में अग्निकांड की घटनाएं

2448. **श्री गोपाल सिंह जी० सोलंकी** क्या **जल-भूतल परिवहन मंत्री** यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या कांडला पत्तन में अग्निकांड की घटनाएं बार-बार हो रही हैं;

(ख) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है;

(ग) इसके क्या कारण हैं;

(घ) अग्निकांड की इन घटनाओं को रोकने के लिए क्या-क्या कदम उठाये गये हैं;

(ङ) क्या उक्त पत्तन में अग्निशमन सेवा पर्याप्त नहीं है; और

(च) यदि हां, तो सरकार द्वारा इस संबंध में अब तक क्या कदम उठाये गये हैं?

जल-भूतल परिवहन मंत्री (श्री टी० जी० वेंकटरामन) : (क) जी नहीं ।

(ख) से (च) प्रश्न नहीं उठते ।

Road development project through privatistion in Maharashtra

2449. SHRI MUKESH R. PATEL: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering the request of Maharashtra Government for road development project through privatisation particularly National Highways;

(b) the details, guidelines and directives in this regard; and

(c) the funds allocation for this project and by when this project will be started?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T. G. VENKATRAMAN): (a) This Ministry is primarily responsible for the development of National Highways and the development of all other roads is the responsibility of the respective State Governments. As regards National Highways, decision has already been taken to involve private sector in the development and maintenance of National Highways passing through various States including the State of Maharashtra.

(b) The guidelines for taking BOT projects on National Highways have already been formulated and circulated to all the State Governments including the State of Maharashtra.

(c) Normally the BOT projects are financed/executed by the entrepreneur himself and hence no specific allocation is made for such projects. Taking up of BOT projects on National Highways in the State of Maharashtra has already started. The costs of land acquisition, shifting of utilties and environmental clearance are the responsibility of the Government.

Operation of inter-State Buses between Delhi and Neighbouring States

2450. SHRI SOM PAL: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is true that there have been several disputes between the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi and the neighbouring States in the matter of operating inter-state bus routes;

(b) if so, the State-wise details thereof;

(c) the steps being contemplated to have some standing arrangements and rules to take care of such disputes; and

(d) what have been the results thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T. G. VENKATRAMAN): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Rajya Sabha.

Cohia Bridge in Goa in National Highway-17

2451. SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) what is the present position of the works on Cohia Bridge in Goa on National Highways-17;

(b) when tenders for this bridge were called and when the works were allotted;

(c) whether proposals to launch this bridge on BOLT basis was considered; and

(d) how many proposals have been received to build this bridge on BOLT basis?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T. G. VENKATRAMAN): (a) Presumably the Hon'ble Member is referring to Colvale bridge for which the construction work is in progress.

(b) Tenders for this bridge were called on 28th March, 1996 and work awarded on 30th January, 1997.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Improvement of Calcutta and Haldia Ports

2452. SHRI ASHOK MITRA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the plans to improve the cargo-handling capacity of the Calcutta and Haldia ports; and

(b) whether programmes are also on the anvil to effect corresponding